

**METHOD FOR SURFACE PREPARATION OF WORKPIECES UTILIZING
FLUID SEPARATION TECHNIQUES
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Sub D1

A method of and apparatus for preparing a workpiece surface utilizing two or more fluids of differing density and miscibility which create one or more fluid interfaces wherein the fluids are chosen such that the solubility or affinity of one of the fluids is high for a material to be removed from the workpiece surface while the other fluid has a low solubility or affinity for the material to be removed. The workpiece surface is treated by passing the workpiece through the fluid interface. The two or more fluids are preferably dispensed into an apparatus [of the present invention] and allowed to settle into two or more predominant layers separated by an interface. Surface preparation techniques which may benefit from the present invention include etching, cleaning or drying processes and the like.